

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 L-03
/056 W

-----182140Z 123788 /61

R 181601Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2352

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1873

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: BIKO TRIAL: THIRD WEEK

REF: PRETORIA 1773 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THIRD WEEK OF STEVEN BIKO TRIAL BEGAN APRIL 12 WHEN STATE CALLED STEKI LIMBA, 19, AS NEXT WITNESS. BEFORE TESTIMONY, MAGISTRATE S. VAN ZYL WARNED LIMBA THAT HE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AN ACCOMPLICE AND ALSO FACE CHARGES OF OBSTRUCTING COURSE OF JUSTICE OR SUBORNATION OF PERJURY. LIMBA TOLD COURT THAT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS BEATEN BY POLICE AT SCHOOL, HE VOLUNTARILY MADE HIS STATEMENT AT KING WILLIAM'S TOWN (KWT) POLICE STATION. LIMBA ALSO SAID BIKO TOLD HIM TO DENY HIS STATEMENT AND SAY HE HAD BEEN ASSAULTED BY POLICE. UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION BY ADVOCATE COOPER, LIMBA ADMITTED HEARING SCREAMS OF FELLOW SCHOOLMATES AT KWT STATION WHEN HE SIGNED
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UNKNOWN STATEMENT NOT READ BY OR TO HIM.

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT NEXT STATE WITNESS, UNNAMED STUDENT OF 16, TOLD COURT BIKO DID NOT INSTRUCT HIM TO CHANGE HIS STATEMENT AT THE GRAHAMSTOWN SABOTAGE TRIAL AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS SIGNING IN FRONT OF POLICE. SUBSEQUENT STATE WITNESS BEGAN

TESTIMONY APRIL 14. WITNESS SAID STUDENTS AGREED TO DENY STATEMENTS SO THAT FELLOW CLASSMATES WOULD NOT GO TO JAIL. PRESS ALSO REPORTED ADVOCATE KUNY'S ASSERTION THAT THE FATE OF ALL THE STATE WITNESSES, MOST OF WHOM ARE STILL IN CUSTODY, IS IN THE HANDS OF THE SECURITY POLICE. DUE TO BUSY SCHEDULE OF DEFENSE AND MAGISTRATE, BIKO TRIAL SCHEDULED TO RESUME JULY 11.

3. COMMENT: BIKO CASE IS TAKING CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED BY COURT. TESTIMONY OF SEVEN STUDENT WITNESSES FOR STATE REVEALS COMMON PATTERN OF POLICE ASSAULTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH OBTAINING STATEMENTS FOR STATE IN GRAHAMSTOWN SABOTAGE CASE. FROM EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN COURT TO DATE, BIKO ROLE IN DECISION TO DEPART FROM STATEMENTS AT GRAHAMSTOWN TRIAL REMAINS UNCLEAR. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT PROCEEDINGS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, (BIKO, STEVEN), (LIMBA, STEK)
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